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Refugees with children at a railway station in Przemysl, Poland, after fleeing the war from neighbouring Ukraine on Tuesday | AP

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RS uproar as fuel and cooking gas prices begin post-poll rally

House adjourned twice as Opposition MPs troop into the Well of the House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Rajya Sabha witnessed noisy scenes and multiple adjournments on Tuesday as the Opposition targeted the government for increasing fuel and cooking gas prices soon after the state elections. According to the latest price hike announced on Tuesday, petrol and diesel will cost 80 paise more while domestic cooking gas will be dearer by ₹50 per cylinder.

The rates will differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as value-added tax. Petrol will now cost ₹96.21 a litre in Delhi as against ₹95.41 previously while diesel rates have gone up from ₹86.67 per litre to ₹87.47, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, the petrol price has been

hiked by ₹0.84 per litre to ₹110.82 per litre, and diesel by ₹0.86 to ₹95 per litre.

With the crucial elections to five states over, the Centre will likely allow state-owned oil marketing companies to effect gradual increase in prices over next few days to help them recoup the losses incurred from keeping prices on hold for a record 137 days at a stretch.

Raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Congress, TMC and Left parties forced two adjournments of proceedings.

During the Zero Hour, Trinamool members insisted that their notice on price rise under Rule 267 be admitted. As soon as the listed papers were laid on the table of the House, Opposition MPs were on their feet, raising the issue of price rise. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he had not accepted the notices given by Shaktisinh Gohil (Cong), Dola Sen (TMC), V Sivadasan, Elamaram Kareem and John Brittas (CPI-M) under Rule 267, requiring setting aside of the listed agenda to take up a discussion. He said the issue can be discussed during demands for grants of the ministries. But TMC members stormed into the well carrying placards. The Congress, Left, SP and Shiv Sena members also shouted slogans. P13

'Need ₹20 / litre hike to match crude oil price'

According to a new report by CRISIL Research, a steep increase of ₹15-20 per litre is required to fully pass through a $30 per barrel increase in the cost of raw material (crude oil)

Fitch cuts FY23 growth forecast on high oil prices

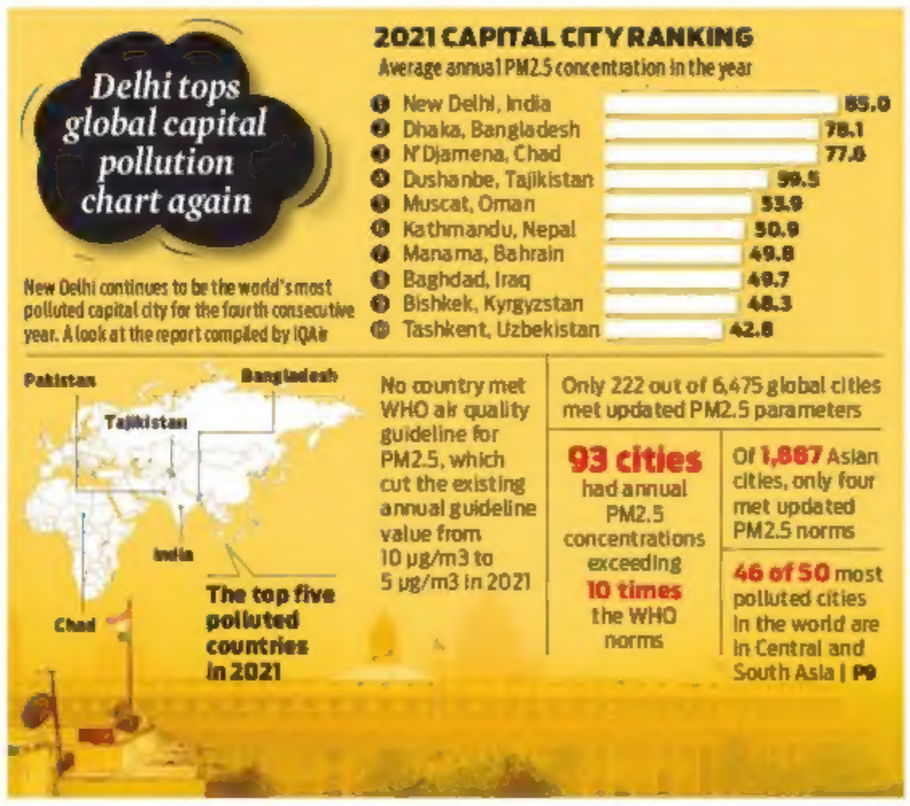
Rating agency Fitch on Tuesday slashed India's growth forecast for FY23 to 8.5% from 10.3%, citing soaring energy prices and rising inflation on account of the Russia-Ukraine war. It has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8.7%

TMC's 'revenge': 2 kids among 8 charred to death

ENS @ Kolkata

EIGHT people, including two children, were charred to death after their houses were gutted in the wee hours of Tuesday in West Bengal's Birbhum district, in an alleged case of revenge attack hours after the murder of a Trinamool Congress panchayat leader. Seven charred bodies were recovered from one of the burnt houses, while one injured person died in hospital. Eleven people have so far been arrested in the case, the police said.

It all began after TMC's panchayat deputy chief of Barshal village, Bhadu Sheikh, was murdered around 8.30 pm on Monday. Hours later, at least eight houses were allegedly set on fire in Bogtui village on the outskirts of Rampurhat town. While West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar described the deaths as horrific and alleged that the state is in the grip of a culture of 'violence and lawlessness', CM Mamata Banerjee told him not to make unwarranted statements. Meanwhile, minister Partha Chatterjee said the government has set up a special investigation team to probe the matter and sent a minister to the spot. P10



Karnataka resolution to target TN on Mekedatu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government has decided to pass a resolution in both Houses of the legislature, condemning the resolution passed on Monday by the Tamil Nadu Assembly against the Mekedatu reservoir project.

In the Assembly, members from all parties condemned the Tamil Nadu decision and urged the state government to pass the resolution condemning it on Wednesday after consulting legal experts, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah said that let any party, including their own, be against the Mekedatu project in Tamil Nadu, but it is needed for people's welfare in Karnataka.

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa said there could be several differences between parties in the Assembly, but when it comes to land and water, they are all united.

Bommai said that whenever Karnataka takes up a project related to Cauvery, Tamil Nadu has the habit of opposing it. "Tamil Nadu is utilising additional water which is not their share and taking up the reservoir work down south without permission. We will pass the resolution against this as well," the Chief Minister said.

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EXPRESS READ

At 296, state tops in child marriages

Bengaluru: Karnataka has witnessed an alarming increase in the number of child marriage cases in the year 2020-21. Women and Child Development Minister Halappa Achar informed the Council that 296 child marriages were reported in the state last year | P5

Assets case: Court calls Somanna

Bengaluru: The Special Court dealing with criminal cases related to elected MPs and MLAs on Monday issued a summons to Housing Minister V Somanna over a disproportionate assets case filed in 2013, after rejecting Lokayukta police's 'B' report closing the same | P4

5 killed as car collides with bus

Hassan: Five youths were killed on the spot, when the hatchback they were in collided with a KSRTC bus near Kalkere village on the Hassan-Belur road on Tuesday. The accident occurred when the car driver tried to overtake another vehicle, and came in front of the oncoming bus | P5

MEDICAL EDUCATION FEE TO BE REGULATED IN STATE SOON

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

MEDICAL education fee will be regulated shortly, announced Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Tuesday. The state has already formed a new fee regulation committee that will analyse private medical colleges in the state, categorise them and decide on the fee that can be collected, he added. The Basavaraj Bommai government announced the setting up of this committee during the budget session.

"The state government will take all possible measures to provide opportunities for poor children to enter medical colleges. The committee will recommend the fees particularly for private medical colleges," Sudhakar said.

The committee will categorise private medical colleges into A, B, C and D, based on their infrastructure and NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) assessment, the staff, equipment, clinical exposure etc. The fees would then be fixed based on the recommendations made by the committee, he said.

The state government already has a fee regulatory committee, which is appointed by the higher education department. The new committee, however, will look into only fees for medical courses, sources said.